Appl. No. 09/915,865
Amdt. Dated January 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2005

Attorney Docket No. 2009-174 (81841.0155)
Customer No. 26021

Listing of Claims:

1-6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Previously presented) An apparatus for mechanical control of an automated immunochemistry or chemistry instrument which has a multiplicity of subsystems for performing immunochemistry or chemistry assays, the apparatus for mechanical control comprising:

a mechanical control system having both object-orient features and real-time features for control of the operations of the multiplicity of subsystems; wherein the subsystems operate on, transform, or transfer passengers; wherein said mechanical control system comprises a scheduler configured for determining the times when one or more sets of operations of said multiplicity of subsystems must be executed; wherein said scheduler is configured for determining whether said multiplicity of subsystems is available for performing said immunochemistry or chemistry assays; and

a passenger template base class comprising facilities configured for passenger creation, destruction, enumeration and state recovery.

8.   (Original) The apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said mechanical control system comprises a sequencer for starting said operations of said multiplicity of subsystems at correct times respectively.

9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said mechanical control system comprises a recipe containing instructions for each assay.

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11.   (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said
       mechanical control system comprises a chronicle which stores test history
       information pertaining to each assay.

12.   (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said
       object-orient features of said mechanical control system include the feature of
       hiding the real-time features in a subsystem base class.

13.   (Original) The apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said object-orient
       features of said mechanical control system include the feature of causing
       actions to be performed on specific vessels at specific times.

14.   (Previously presented) The apparatus as defined in claim 7, wherein said
       real-time features of said mechanical control system include the feature of
       satisfying the requirement that certain actions of one or more subsystems of
       said apparatus must occur at a specific time in order for said apparatus to
       function correctly.

15-26. (Canceled)